

An Essay.  
on the  
Disease of the Teeth.

Respectfully submitted  
to the Faculty of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of Pennsylvania

By  
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Gentlemen

There are not  
many Diseases that are more  
prevalent in some seasons of the  
year than those arising from the  
teeth. And they are generally of  
such a character that require the  
advice or skill of the physician

And as those organs are of  
so much importance to the health & the  
maintenance of all the organs in the  
economy of man, And add so much  
to the personal appearances of the  
individual; that we think a few  
words as to some of their diseases  
and the mode of cure will be  
fully appreciated.

There are many.

diseases which affects those beautiful organs, which causes their removal almost imperative, And in many cases they are removed when they were not the cause of the disease, but giving pain through sympathy of the nervous system.

There are many diseases that are remote from those organs which have their origin in them, and therefore must be examined in order to learn the difficulty. And when our attention are called to them we should make a careful examination of all, for the pain may be felt in one of the superior ones, while the cause is located in one of the inferior, and

An insisor may be very painful  
and pass through all the stages of in-  
flammation to suppuration; while the  
cause is located in one of the pos-  
terior teeth, and the dentes sapientiae  
are more liable to give rise to this  
kind of inflammation to the insisors  
than any other of the dental organs.

I recollect a case of a gentle-  
man who was suffering with a pain-  
ful abscess of the ear, which had  
occurred at different periods for four  
years, and no relief could be given  
him only in large doses of Morphine  
until the abscess discharged, when he  
would gain his usual good health;  
at the time that I seen him he  
applied to a dentist for the purpose

of having the right superior lateral  
incisor removed, as it was giving  
him great pain, and it commenced  
about the same time that the pain  
in his ear; but upon examination  
the tooth was found to be in a healthy  
state and the dentist therefore refused  
to remove it, And as the pain was  
very severe in ear and also the tooth  
led the dentist to suspect that some of  
the other organs were the cause of this  
trouble; And in making a careful  
examination of them, he found that  
tapping with the handle of his instru-  
ment the second ~~superior~~ right  
molar that it caused an aggravation  
of the pain in his ear, which seemed  
to form some connection with this  
tooth,

And as the tooth had been filled  
some five years previous, the Dentist  
supposed that the pulp had become  
diseased and was the cause of the  
difficulty and when once expressed  
by him, the patient insisted upon  
its removal, which ~~was~~ immediately  
done, And upon examination the pulp  
was found dead and putrid, while a  
quantity of matter was discharged  
and the pain in the ear and lateral  
inflame gradually subsided. And he  
has had no return of the disease  
in his ear since which is now over  
four years, And I have no doubt that  
had this disease been treated with our  
remedies ~~in~~ the first appearance of  
the inflammation, the tooth would not

inspire, and performed all the functions  
of mastication, and had the pulp been  
removed after it became diseased, and  
then filled with good gold foil, it would  
be retained in the mouth as long  
as any of the other organs.

Another case of disease  
which arose from a tooth, was a  
large tumor in the throat, which  
caused great inconvenience in  
deglutition, and at times was very  
painful, it was situated immediately  
behind the tonsil gland, and it was  
also enlarged and painful, he had the  
tonsil extirpated and the enlargement  
burnt away with linear caustic; but  
would soon reappear, and it was  
thus treated by a medical gentleman

for some two years without any good result, At the time that I saw it he was suffering with it and a small hard painfull swelling at the ~~anterior~~<sup>posterior</sup> angle of the inferior Maxilla and he had applied to a dentist for the purpose of having his teeth examined to see if they could in any way be implicated in producing this last named swelling, and upon examination it was ascertained that the third inferior molar was the cause of the difficulty Although it was not much decayed but it gave pain by striking with an instrument; and it was therefore removed, and as in the other case the pulp was dead, and a small hard substance was attached to the

root, which had caused absorption  
of the root for the distance of an eighth  
of an inch. After its removal the  
tumor on the angle of the jaw passed  
away, and in the space of a few  
months his throat was free of pain  
and is now entirely well.

The teeth very frequently  
give pain, and become very much diseased  
and if removed without a careful  
examination we would not be able  
to give that relief which should follow  
their removal. And in our examination  
we should be careful to ascertain if  
any disease of some other organ may  
not be the cause of the pain complained  
of in the tooth, as in the case of  
a lady who applied to me to have the

first superior left Molar extracted  
as it had given her very much  
pain for some six or eight days, and  
was then so sore that she could not  
touch it without giving pain, and  
it was so sensitive that cool air  
and cold drinks effected it, And  
it had been filled about a year  
previous she thought that that was  
the cause, as the nerve had been  
destroyed with arsenious acid and  
removed and then filled, She was  
then in her seventh month of ~~her~~  
pregnancy <sup>and</sup> she was parful to have  
it removed <sup>but</sup> was determined to  
have the offending member out,  
but on examination of the tooth  
I found ~~it~~ filled and in good condition

and I refused to extract it, and in  
place assured her that the pain  
could be removed without taking with  
it the tooth. As it is always best to  
try and save those organs, and fail, than  
not to try at all, so I gave her Coccus  
and Sepia in alternation which remove  
the pain and the sensation in the space  
of six or eight hours, and the tooth  
retains the tooth with the use of  
any of the others, and it remains in  
a healthful condition.

With these two remedies in  
such cases of painful teeth I have ~~never~~ never  
failed in removing. But I do not  
always use them in alternation, I cured  
a painful toothache which the lady had  
been suffering for over a month with

Sepia, and when it relieves without entirely removing the pain, I follow with Cocculus or give it in alternation.

There are many teeth which are very sensitive, and causes much pain in filling, and the mechanical irritation induced in filling them will often produce inflammation of the root which if not arrested in its first stages will go on to suppuration and destroy the living pulp, and produce a fistulous opening through the obicular process which cannot be cured until the dead pulp is removed and its place filled with pure gold, when the inflammation is first felt Amica may be given and should it not prove sufficient Belladonna or Mer; Sol,

sharer follow if indicate, with these  
three Medicines I have never failed  
in removing this severe suffering  
which the patient would have to suffer  
or else have the organ removed, which  
should not be done, for see teeth that  
have crowns sufficient to retain a filling  
can be rendered healthful and useful  
with proper treatment.

A gentleman applied to me  
to have the first superior right Molar  
extracted as it had caused him so  
much pain that he had no rest for  
the two nights previous, I examined  
the tooth and found it sound and  
healthy and refused to comply with  
his request, and as he was suffering  
with a small red looking boil upon

the cheek immediately below the molar  
bone, and I suspect it to be the  
cause of the difficulty, and as he  
complained of a throbbing pain in  
the tooth I gave him Belladonna  
to take every three hours until I  
heard from him the next day, telling  
him to cease taking the medicine  
when the pain in his tooth left,  
and when I seen him on the following  
day the toothache was gone and the  
boil was nearly gone, so much so  
that there was no pain in it, and  
was entirely gone in a few days.

Many of the neuralgic pains  
which are confined to the fifth pair  
of nerves either have their origin  
in the teeth, or else the teeth become

effected by this affection, and we  
should look well to the cause and  
see where the seat of the affection  
is or else we will not be able  
to give the necessary relief; and only  
through our ignorance remove the  
teeth without affording the patient  
but momentary relief, and will  
mostly aggravate the symptoms. A  
lady who had been under treatment  
of the old school for more than a  
year for neuralgia, of the left side  
of the face and neck without  
experiencing any cessation from  
her suffering, and her physician  
telling her that the disease could  
not be cured without the removal  
of her teeth extirpated, which

she consented to do, and applied  
to me for that purpose, I examined  
her mouth and found ~~but~~ one  
decayed tooth, and that was a  
small stump of the second inci-  
pid which I told her was not the  
cause of the difficulty, But being  
advised by her medical friend that  
her teeth must be removed before she  
could receive any benefit from medicine  
nothing would satisfy her but the removal  
of some of them, and as the stump  
was of no use to her I removed  
it; telling her to call again to have  
some of the others taken out, But  
on the next day she applied to me  
again, saying that the pain was  
much worse, and she must now

have them out so that she might  
receive some cessation of suffering  
I made an other minute exam-  
ination and I found them all in  
a healthy condition, and declined  
to remove them which she did not  
willingly receive, saying that if I did  
not others would, I then remarked  
to her that I thought that I could  
remove the difficulty in a few days  
if she would place herself under  
my care, which she at first refused  
remarking that a dentist did not  
know how to treat such a disease  
so well as her physician, I remarked  
that it was out of my sphere, yet  
I did not like to see people suffering  
when I had the means to relieve them

after consulting with the friend  
that came with her she consented to  
go according to my advice, I gave  
her a few powders of Acenite, which  
gave her ease in twenty four hours  
and remained much better through  
the day and when night came, or she  
laid down to sleep it recurred, with  
beating and throbbing sensation, I  
followed the Acenite with belladonna  
and in less than three weeks, she  
was free from pain, and has not felt  
the least symptoms of its recurrence  
since which is now over ten months.

Thus I might go on adding case  
to case which has come under my  
notice in the three last years of practice  
which I treat all diseases by the

Homoeopathic law of cure that  
come within my practice, and with  
the most signal success.